FL11 Luo

1: Butt, Audrey. The Luo of Kenya. Ethnographic Survey of Africa: East Central Africa, Part IV, the Nilotes of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Uganda. pp. 108-118. London: International African Institute, 1952.

HRAF Copy

/This brief secondary survey of Luo culture by an anthropologist is based mostly upon original work by Evans-Pritchard. It includes information on social organization, marriage ceremonies, religious beliefs and life cycle of the Luo.--Analyst/

Field date: no date
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Ethnologist-4
Processed in 1959

2: Evans-Pritchard, Edward Evans. Luo Tribes and Clans. The Rhodes-Livingstone Journal, No. 7, pp. 24-40. Livingstone, Northern Rhodesia: The Rhodes-Livingstone Institute, 1949.

Yale: Bk21.2nc 6-10

/This article deals with the tribal and kinship structure of the Luo people, and the importance of kin relathionships in political, social and economic matters. The author observes that the Luo lineage system has many features in common with the Nuer and other Nilotic groups. All references to the clan in this and other sources on the Luo have been marked for 614 (Sib). --Analyst/

Field date: 1936
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1959

FL11 Luo

3: Evans-Pritchard, Edward Evans. Marriage Customs of the Luo of Kenya. Africa, Vol. 20, pp. 132-142. London: International African Institute, 1950.

Yale: Bk2.10.20

/The author, a professional anthropologist, obtained his information for this article mostly from the Alego tribe of Central Kavirondo. It contains descriptions of pre-marital love-making (codo), marriage ceremonies, bride-wealth, divorce, and in-law avoidance.--Analyst/

Field date: 1936
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1959

4: Hobley, C.W. Eastern Uganda: An Ethnological Survey. London: Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, 1902.

Pp. 95; 5 plates; 1 map.
Omitted from the files because they deal with tribes other than the Luo:
Pp. 1-8, 11-25, 35-51, 57-60, 89-95, plates III-V.

Yale: Nk10 ~~+~~ R81e v.1

/Hobley was a colonial official in the Uganda Protectorate. This paper is the result of his personal observations. The information presented includes material culture, social customs, and tribal divisions. There is a comparatively long list of Bantu Kavirondo, Luo, and Nandi words as well as a brief discussion of native grammar. --Analyst/

Field date: ca. 1900
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Government Official-5
Processed in 1959

5: Hobley, C.W. Anthropological Studies in Kavirondo and Nandi. Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, Vol. 33, pp. 325-359. London: 1903.

Yale: Nk10 R81 33

/Hobley was a colonial official of the British East Africa Protectorate which had under its jurisdiction the peoples of the Kavirondo Bay area. This article deals with various customs and legends of the Luo, Bantu Kavirondo, and Nandi groups. The major topics included are: myths and folklore, religious beliefs, totems, clothing, clitoridectomy, tattooing, naming, and birth statistics.--Analyst/

Field date: ca. 1900
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Government Official-5
Processed in 1959

6: Dobbs, C.M. Fishing in the Kavirondo Gulf, Lake Victoria. The Journal of the East Africa and Uganda Natural History Society, No. 30, pp. 97-109, 7 plates. Nairobi, Kenya: 1927.

Yale: S11.45 8

/In this brief article the author describes all aspects of commercial and native fishing in the Kavirondo Gulf. Several illustrations of Luo boats and fishing gear are given. --Analyst/

Field date: no date
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Government Official-5
Processed in 1959

7: "Nyangweso." The Cult of Mumbo in Central and South Kavirondo. The Journal of the East Africa and Uganda Natural History Society, No. 38-39, pp. 13-17. Nairobi, Kenya, 1930.

Yale: S11.45 10

/This is an account of the origin and practices of the Mumbo cult which made its appearance in 1913. The author believes that the cult is a mixture of the old Luo religion of sun worship and of an even older, but forgotten religion. "Nyangweso" is probably a pseudonym. --Analyst/

Field date: no date
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Unknown--4
Processed in 1959

8: Shaw, K.C. Some Preliminary Notes on Luo Marriage Customs. The Journal of the East Africa and Uganda Natural History Society, No. 45-46, pp. 39-50. Nairobi, Kenya, 1932.

Yale: S11.45 11

/Shaw obtained his information on Luo marriage customs as they existed in Central Kavirondo from tribal elders. It is a detailed description touching upon marriage regulations, bride price, betrothal and wedding ceremonies. In spite of the "To be continued" note at the end of this article, there is no record of the final portion every being published. --Analyst/

Field date: ca. 1930
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Government Official-5
Processed in 1959

9: Owen, W.E. Food Production and Kindred Matters Along the Luo. The Journal of the East Africa and Uganda Natural History Society, No. 49-50, pp. 235-249. Nairobi, Kenya, 1933.

Yale: S11.45 11

/This article provides information on Luo agricultural methods and beliefs, the status of women, family relationships, and treatment of the aged. The impact of European influence upon Luo life is noted in each instance.--Analyst./

Field date: ca. 1920
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Missionary-5
Processed in 1959

FL11 Luo

10: Roscoe, John. The Northern Bantu: An Account of Some Central African Tribes of the Uganda Protectorate. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1915.

Pp. xii, 305; 22 plates; 1 map; index.
Only pp. ix-x and 275-93 have been processed for this file since the remaining portion of the book deals with tribes other than the Luo.

Yale: Nkd87.915r

/The portion of Roscoe's book processed for this file is part of a general survey of Northern Bantu tribes. It is based upon observations and notes made by the author during his many years of residence in Central Africa where he was a missionary stationed at Mengo, the capital of Uganda. His description of the Luo includes tribal structure, economy, legal customs, marriage, birth, initiation, death, treatment of the sick, and warfare. -- Analyst/

Field date: ca. 1900
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Missionary-5
Processed in 1959

11: Hartmann, H. Some Customs of the Luwo (or Nilotic Kavirondo) Living in South Kavirondo. Anthropos, Vol. 23, pp. 263-275. Wien: Anthropos Administration, 1928.

Yale: Nk10 + An89 v. 23

/In this brief article Hartmann describes in detail the Luo customs regarding birth, betrothal, marriage, burial, and mourning. The differences between Hartmann's account and those of Hobley, Roscoe and others may be a regional variation. Hartmann worked in the area south of Kavirondo gulf in contrast to the other authorities who mostly reported on the northern areas. Evans-Pritchard observed considerable local variation among the Luo. -- Analyst/

Field date: ca. 1920
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Missionary-5
Processed in 1959

12: Evans-Pritchard, Edward Evans. Ghostly Vengeance Among the Luo of Kenya. Man, Vol. 50, Article 133, pp. 86-87. London: Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, 1950.

Yale: Nk10 / M31 50-51

/The author, a prominent British social anthropologist, discusses in this article the Luo belief that an aggrieved ghost will cause sickness and injury to those who wronged it in life, and the means by which its wrath could be appeased. -- Analyst/

Field date: 1936
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1959

13: Odede, Walter. Luo Customs with Regard to Animals (with Particular Reference to Cattle). The Journal of the East Africa and Uganda Natural History Society, Vol. 16, No. 2 & 3 (71 & 72), pp. 127-135. Nairobi, Kenya: Coryndon Memorial Museum, 1942.

Yale: S11.45 16

/The author is a Luo veterinarian. This article discusses the native attitude toward various kinds of domestic animals, the place of animal husbandry in Luo economy and customs, and information on dairying and treating of animal diseases.--Analyst/

Field date: no date
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Indigene-5
Processed in 1959

14: Johnston, Harry. The Uganda Protectorate, Vol. II. London: Hutchinson & Co., 1904.

Pp. xiii, 471-1018; 6 colored drawings; 251 black and white drawings and photographs; 2 maps; index.
/Only pp. 779-795 dealing with the Luo have been processed for the Files.)

Yale: Eff899Jc v.2

/This source contains descriptive accounts covering Luo clothing and ornaments, food and drink, fishing and hunting, marriage ceremonies, religious beliefs, life cycle, medical remedies, and games. Johnston served as Commissioner of the Uganda protectorate.--Analyst/

Field date: no date
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Government Official-5
Processed in 1959

111 FL11 Luo

15: Millikin, A.S. Burial Customs of the Wa-Kavirondo in the Kisumu Province. Man, Vol. 6, Article 35, pp. 54-55. London: The Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, 1906.

Yale: Nk10 + M31 v.6

/This is a brief description of Luo burial and mourning customs which supplements information available in other sources processed for the Files. --Analyst/

Field date: no date
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Unknown - 4
Processed in 1959

16: Northcote, G.A.S. The Nilotic Kavirondo. Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, Vol. 37, pp. 58-66. London, 1907.

Yale: Nk10 ≠ R81 37

/Northcote's article is a brief survey of Luo culture. Aside from such material aspects as clothing and weapons, the author devotes his attention mostly to land tenure, marriage, inheritance, funeral rites, witchcraft, and magic. --Analyst/

Field date: no date
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Government Official-5
Processed in 1959

FL11 Luo

17: Southall, A. Lineage Formation Among the Luo. International African Institute Memorandum 26. London: International African Institute, 1952.

Pp. 43, 1 map, 6 text figures.

Yale: Bk2.11 21-30

/The purpose of this article, as stated by the author, a professional ethnologist, is to document certain aspects of the theoretical relationship of lineage to family; to demonstrate and interpret the structural importance of females in a system based on strict patrilineal descent; to show the divergence between norm and practice in Luo lineage concepts and Luo lineage activities; and to explain the process by which new lineages of different types are formed by reference to current or recent examples.--Analyst/

Field date: 1946-47
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Ethnologist -5
Processed in 1959

18: Allison, A.C., Elizabeth W. Ikin, A.E. Mourant, and A.B. Raper. Blood Groups in Some East African Tribes. I. Blood Groups in some Kenya Tribes, by A.C. Allison, Elizabeth W. Ikin, and A.E. Mourant. Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, Vol. 82, pp. 55-59. London, 1952.

Yale: Nk10 / R81 81-82

[This report embodies the results of A_1A_2BO, MNS, and Rh tests on the luo and Kikuyu tribes, together with P tests on the Kikuyu and ABO tests on the Masai. The authors conclude that there are only slight differences in blood groups between the Nilotic Luo and the Eastern Bantu Kikuyu. Only Part I of this article was processed. The authors are trained specialists in serology. -- Analyst]

Field date: 1949
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Physicians - 5
Processed in 1959

19: Wilson, G. M. Homicide and Suicide among the Joluo of Kenya. In, African Homicide and Suicide, Paul J. Bohannan, ed., pp. 179-213, 273-274, 287-288. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1960.

HRAF copy.

[The aim of this source and the others in the collection "is to provide description and analysis of the culture patterns which involve homicide and suicide in several African societies." The author provides brief background data on the identification of the Luo, their location, social organization, and recent changes brought about by European contacts. He then discusses several aspects of the society particularly related to the subject, such as attitudes toward death in general, violence, the effect on kinship and community groups of homicide and suicide, and the reaction usual to such events. The body of the source is devoted to specific cases of homicide and suicide selected from numerous examples to indicate the variety of motives, methods and results encountered. --Analyst]

Field date: ca. 1950
Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Social Anthropologist-5
Processed in 1960

20: Ominde, Simeon H. The Luo Girl: From Infancy to Marriage. London: Macmillan and Co., Limited, 1952.

Pp. x, 70; 5 photographs; 1 text figure; 1 chart.

Yale: Nkd79 L86 952P. DLC: GN650.05. DLC card no: 62-227.

[This book describes the usual course of life of the Luo female from birth to motherhood, considering also a few possible situations of crisis; illegitimacy, celibacy, and sterility. The author, a Luo himself, student at Makerere college (Kenya), made his observations within his local group of origin, specifically amongst his relatives. The objective of his study is to make officials of the school system aware of the specific conditions and needs of the Luo girls in respect to education.]

Field date: ca. 1948
Analyst: Sigrid Khera

Evaluation: Indigene-5
Processed in 1967

21: Huxley, Elspeth. A New Earth: An Experiment in Colonialism. London: Chatto & Windus, 1960.

Pp. 288; 32 plates; 3 maps; 3 appendices; index.

Yale: Nn97 B71 960H. DLC:HN800. K4H9. DLC card no: 60-4455

Only pp. 97-109, 152-61 and 231-52 have been processed for the Files.

[This book, written by an East African journalist, discusses the changes in the way of life of the Luo, Masai, and Kikuyu, brought forth by overexploitation of the country and following counteractions by government agencies. These counteractions consist foremostly of land consolidation among the Luo and Kikuyu, and the establishment of forest preserves in the Masai country. The material is based upon personal observations and interviews with Luo and Kikuyu - mainly of outstanding position - as well as with government officials.]

Field date: no date
Analyst: Sigrid Khera

Evaluation: Humanist, Traveler-5
Processed in 1967